

2020 ANNUAL REPORT Intermediate Low Vision Clinic



VA Adaptive Sports Programs

“Adaptive sports” is used to describe a sport that has either been adapted specifically for persons with a disability or created specifically for persons with a disability. The Sioux Falls VA (SFVA) offers year round adaptive sports opportunities at no cost to Veterans. Currently the sports of bocchia ball, downhill skiing, air rifle, cycling, kayaking, golf and archery are on the schedule for 2021. The Sioux Falls VA also sends teams of Veterans to regional and national adaptive sports events such as: Black Hills Ski for Light, VA Castaways Disabilities Fishing Event, VA Winter Sports Clinic, VA Summer Sports clinic, VA Golden Age Games, VA Wheelchair Games, and the VA TEE Golf Tournament. Veterans who participate have companionship, competition, and fun while exercising.

The SFVA local Adaptive Sports Program currently serves 161 participants (as of 11/24/2020). Of the 161 participants, 27 of them have vision loss. All the offered sports are inclusive to Veterans with vision loss and appropriate for all levels of ability. For example, there are tactile boards for bocchia ball, guides and tethers for skiing, audio rifles for air rifle, tandem cycles for cycling, tandem kayaks for kayaking, ball spotters and special carts for golf, and stands or larger target faces for archery.



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We are on the Web!

http://www.sioxfalls.va.gov/services/LOW_VISION_CLINIC.asp

**Sioux Falls VA
Low Vision Staff**

**Low Vision Optometrist
Dr. Bobette Greenfield,
B.S., B.A., O.D.**

**Low Vision Therapist,
Orientation and Mobility
Ardell Fiedler, MS
COMS, CLVT**

**Low Vision OT
Chantel Ostrem, MS,
OTR/L, CLVT**

**VIST Coordinator
Social Worker
Anna Perry, CSW--PIP**

**Reach out to Low Vision
Clinic staff if you are
interested in telehealth
services or any low vision
programs at 605-336-
3230 EXT. 5924.**

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2020 Low Vision Clinic Statistics

Race/Ethnicity	Number of Persons Served	Other Race/Ethnicity Description
African American/Black	4	
Asian	0	
White	302	
First Nation/Aboriginal Canadian	0	
Hispanic/Latino (Ethnicity)	0	
Native (American or Alaskan)	7	
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	2	
Other(s), Specify	55	Declined to answer, Unknown

Gender	Number of Persons Served
Female	24
Male	346
Total Veterans Served	370

Age	Number of Persons Served
18-40	26
41-65	86
66-85	130
86-99	126
100+	2

Veterans have access to Low Vision services in 16.5 days

Ardell completes a Pre- and Post-Low Vision Functional Questionnaire (LV-VFQ) with Veterans during a Low Vision Clinic appointment. The follow-up calls are a valuable part of treatment as the Veteran has a chance to ask questions, problem solve, or ask for more training. Veterans also take the opportunity to express how their devices are helping to meet their goals.

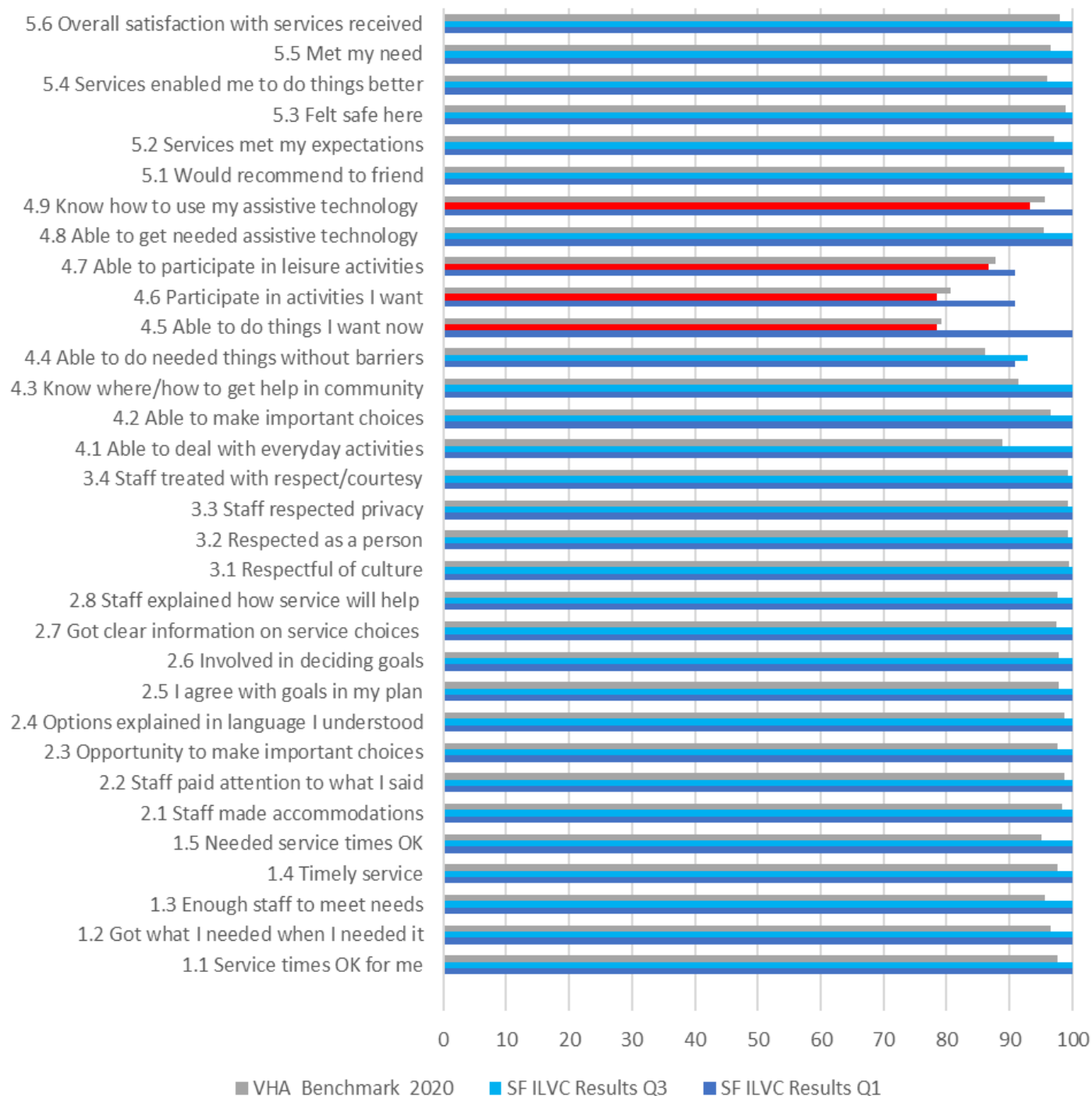
Data from the LV-VFQs show, on average, that SFVA patients responding from 2016—2020 report higher post rehab functioning as compared to average LV-VFQ among a pooled sample from other VA continuum of care low vision clinics.

Highest areas of improvement were seen with reading, telling time, and adjusting to bright light.

SURVEY RESULTS 2020

uSPEQ is a Veteran satisfaction survey used to measure results of Veterans experience with the Low Vision Clinic. For the 3rd quarter of 2020, the Sioux Falls Low Vision Clinic scored 100% on 28 of the 32 questions. VHA Benchmark is a combination of agree and strongly agree, and Red indicates areas where the Sioux Falls Low Vision Clinic did not meet national benchmarks.

uSPEQ Questionnaire FY2020



LOW VISION TELEHEALTH SERVICES

The Low Vision Clinic is not new to telehealth, but this year, more than ever before, there was an increased need to reach out to our Veterans via telehealth due to the COVID 19 pandemic. In 2020 152 Veterans were served via telehealth. This is a 300% increase over 2019 telehealth services when 48 were served!

Low vision therapists are readily available to provide instruction and refresher training of low vision devices and/or strategies via telehealth to a Veterans home or to their local Community Based Outpatient Clinic (CBOC) where a VA staff member is available to assist you with the telehealth session. Please let staff know if you need further instruction on any low vision device our clinic, or what Hines blind rehabilitation center may have issued! If you would like telehealth to your home, all you need is an email address, a smartphone, iPad/android tablet, computer or laptop. If you do NOT have access to these, many times a Veteran will ask a family member who does have these and we can coordinate an appointment with a family member present. We also have the option to mail you one of our tablets if you do not have an electronic device with internet access or a family member to assist you. If you prefer to have a VA staff member help you with a telehealth visit, staff may also see you over telehealth at your local CBOC.

Our VIST social worker also offers many resources via telehealth! VIST offers initial assessments, annual review appointments and adaptive sports assessments via telehealth. VIST also offers a monthly VIST support group via VVC (telehealth to your home) and just started a six week weekly exercise group for Veterans with vision loss via VVC. The adaptive sports clinic also offers virtual golf lessons every other week via VVC and plans to continue to offer those lessons through the winter.



Stakeholders are valuable sources of information on how ILVC is doing and on what areas can improve. We are pleased that this years surveys came back with positive and constructive feedback.

